of subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court and the State Government.

The Government has already introduced Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 in the Lok Sabha on 19.12.2006. The Bill seeks to devise a suitable legislative framework for empowering a judicial forum to deal with complaints against judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

Vacancies in Supreme Court and High Courts

120. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of judges in the Supreme Court and in various High Courts in the country, as on the 1st November, 2007, court-wise;

(b) the number, out of them, which have been there for over six months, as on that date, Court-wise, and the reasons for keeping these posts vacant for so long; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to expedite filling up of the vacancies of judges, so as to ensure that work in courts does not suffer?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) A statement showing the number of vacancies Court-wise, is enclosed *(See* below*)*. Pursuant to the Judgment of the Supreme Court dated October 6, 1993 and their Advisory Opinion dated October 28, 1998, the proposals for appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court are to be initiated by the Chief Justice of India and for High Courts, the proposals are to be initiated by the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and anticipated vacancies during the next six months.

Statement

Court-wise number of vacancies

As on 01.11.2007

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength	Working Strength	Vacancy	No. of Vacancies for over 6 months
1	2	3	4	5	6
	SUPREME COURT	26	22	04	2
		HIGH COURTS			
1.	Allahabad	95	73	22	14
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	31	8	7
3.	Bombay	61	52	9	5
4.	Calcutta	50	41	9	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	8	6	2	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Delhi	36	33	3	2
7.	Gauhati	23	23	Nil	Nil
8.	Gujarat	42	28	14	9
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9	9	Nil	Nil
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	9	5	4
11.	Jharkhand	12	9	3	2
12.	Karnataka	40	36	4	2
13.	Kerala	29	27	2	2
14.	Madhya Pradesh	42	41	1	Nil
15.	Madras	46	42	4	1
16.	Orissa	20	17	3	3
17.	Patna	31	29	2	Nil
18.	Punjab & Haryana	40	37	3	3
19.	Rajasthan	40	36	4	4
20.	Sikkim	3	1	2	1
21.	Uttaranchal	9	9	Nil	Nil
	TOTAL	689	589	100	69

Time taken for granting mining lease

121. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the time taken for granting the mining lease in the country is more than five years, as compared to other countries, where the mining lease formalities are completed within two years;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take to reduce the time-period in granting mining lease to industries;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to delay in granting mining rights, small traders resort to corrupt practices of illegal mining, for sale to non-captive users at exorbitant prices; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) Some references have come to the notice of the Central Government where